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Message Text

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65
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 SCCT-01 AID-05 IO-11 SY-05 /089 W
---------- 128425
R 121510Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8520
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3135

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT ET
SUBJECT: ARRESTS CONTINUE

REF: ADDIS ABABABA 2637

1. EPMG CONTINUES ITS ARRESTS. AFTER BRIEF LET-UP, SCOPE OF ARRESTS APPEARS TO BE INCREASING ONCE MORE. EMBASSY HAS EYE WITNESS REPORT ON ADDIS SHOOTOUT, MONDAY, MARCH 8, IN AREA IMMEDIATELY BEHIND AFRICA HALL (ECA HQ). OUR SOURCE STATES THAT SECURITY FORCES OPENED FIRE ON (UNKNOWN) FUGITIVE HOLED UP IN HIS RESIDENCE AND THAT BODY OF WOULD-BE ARRESTEE WAS LATER CARRIED AWAY. EPMG MEDIA HAS MADE NO MENTION OF THIS EVENT.

2. TWO SOURCES STATE THAT 84-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF FORMER ETHIOPIAN COUNSELOR IN EMBASSY STOCKHOLM WAS ARRESTED, AS WAS TEFERA BEYENE, A FORMER RICH LANDOWNER IN SIDAMO, AND OTHER UNNAMED INDIVIDUALS. TWO SOURCES HAVE ALSO INFORMED US THAT GENERAL MEBRATU FISSEHA, CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF GEMU GOFA,
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IS BEING SOUGHT BY POLICE BUT HAS SO FAR ELUDED CAPTURE.

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R&R COMMISSIONER SHEMELES ADUGNA REPORTEDLY TRAVELED TO
ARBA MINCH BY CAR ON MONDAY, MARCH 8, TO CONFER WITH HIS FRIEND
GENERAL MEBRATU AFTER BEING DENIED DIRG PERMISSION TO FLY THERE
VIA R&R PLANE.

3. DEPT WILL HAVE SEEN REPORTS THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS ON NATURE
OF CURRENT ARRESTS AND EPMG'S PLANS FOR FURTHER ARRESTS FOLLOWING
AFRICAN CUP FOOTBALL MATCHES IN ADDIS.

4. COMMENT: SINCE SEVERAL REPORTS REACHING US TELL OF UNNAMED
WOMEN AND NORTHERNERS BEING ARRESTED, WE PRESUME THAT PURPOSE OF
ARRESTS IS TO FURTHER INTIMIDATE ARISTOCRATS AND OLD ORDER
FIGURES, GAIN FURTHER INFORMATION ON PLANS OF ERITREAN INSURGENTS,
AND PERHAPS (AS MANY HERE BELIEVE) SECURE
NEW HOSTAGES -- JUST IN CASE.
HUMMEL

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